

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

a) please cancel claims 1-11;

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Higgins reference discloses forming an interface surface on spherical housing "32" such that slippage occurs at the interface between the spherical housing and the semispherical flange "26" during thermal expansion (See column 2, lines 35-42). However, Higgins does not expressly teach a method of forming a thermally cycled component assembly comprising the steps of: determining dimensional characteristics of the first component, defining an axis of volumetric expansion for the first component, projecting a sphere having a center on the axis, and defining the center of the sphere as a center of growth of the first component.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled

"Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

TC

/Jonathan Crepeau/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795